(a) the names of the finished medicines for which manufacturing loan licence was granted to a number of companies;

(b) whether each of these units possess un–utilised capacity of formulations;

(c) whether small scale units do not possess the required quality control and testing facilities;

(d) whether any such cases have come to the notice of the Government; and if so, the action taken thereon;

(e) whether the Government and State Drug Authorities made any inspection of these units before granting the loan licences; and

(f) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Under the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, and Rules thereunder, the State Drugs Controllers are the licensing authorities who give permission for the manufacture of finished formulations to the loan licensees. There are about 8,000 loan licensees in the country.

(b) The loan licence is granted by the licensing authority after inter–alia taking into consideration the unutilised capacity of the principal manufacture to manufacture formulations.

(c) and (d). Under the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics, Rules 1945, every manufacturing firm if required to have its own testing laboratory to test raw–materials and finished products manufactured by it. The State Licensing Authority is also required to satisfy itself by inspecting the premises before the licence is granted or renewed.

The State Drugs Inspectors check the quality of drugs manufactured in their States by drawing random samples.

Whenever a drug is found to be sub–standard on test, action like suspension/cancellation of licence and /or prosecutation is launched by the State Drugs Controller as per the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act.

(e) and (f). Licences to manufacture drugs are granted by the licens authority after carrying out inspection of the premises and only after satisfying that the conditions of licence are fulfilled by the applicant.

Timings of Mahalaxmi Express

4081. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the arrival and departure timings of Mahalaxmi Express from Bombay to Miraj and vice-versa to ensure convenience of passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). The existing timings of Mahalaxmi Express are considered convenient to the present usars.

Induction of Population Education

4082. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include the topic of Family Planning in the syllabus of School Education, Adult Education and Vocational eduction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). The small Family norm has been included as one of the topics of Population Education integrated in the school syllabi and the materials in use in Adult Education Programmes. In addition, training materials under the Adult Education Programme includesmessages on responsible parent–hood, right age of marriage, population growth and environment, population and development. Health related courses have been provided in the Vocational Stream at the Higher Secondary stage.

Contraceptive Pill

4083. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a law–does contraceptive pill for use by women conforming to international standards has recently been launched under the Contraceptive Social Marketing Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the side effects, if any; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for its popularisation in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). Low dose contraceptive pills for women, containing 0.30mg of di–norgestrel and 0.03 mg of Ethinyl oestradiol per tablet, have been introduced in the contraceptive Social Marketing Programme under National Family Welfare Programme. These pills are available under brand names Mala–D, ECROZ & PEARL. While Mala–D is sold throughout the country by selected pharmaceutical Marketing companies at a consumer price of Rs. 2/- per cycle, other brands are sold by selected Voluntary Organisations in some States at prices fixed by the concerned Voluntary Organisations.

Some of the common side effects are nausea, vomitting, giddiness breast tenderness, back pain, headache, intramenstrual spotting and breakthrough bleeding. Some of these symptoms will disappear with the continued use of the pills.

(c) In addition to advertising Mala–D in Mass Media through out the country, the associated marketing companies and Voluntary Organisations are encouraged to increase the sales in the country including the rural areas.

Besides, low dose oral contraceptive pills are also available under free distribution scheme under the brand name Mala–N which are distributed through governmental machinery i.e. Family Welfare Centres/ Sub–entres/Workers and some non–governmental/Voluntary Organisations in the urban as well as rural areas.

Augmentation of Lumding–Badarpur Section

4084. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dihaku area on the Lumding–Badarpur section is going downward (sinking);

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any plan to strengthen the entire railway tracks from Lumding to Badarpur and Silchar; and